

THE BUFFALO NEWS

Opinion

[Front Page](#) > [Opinion](#) > [Everybody's Column](#)

Regionalism is best way to ensure area's survival

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I was shocked and outraged by the information brought to light in the Viewpoints article, "How 439 politicians cost us effective government." I always felt that the local bureaucracies were bloated, but I never knew how bloated! What is the matter with us?

I was born and raised in Buffalo and its suburbs. I moved to Florida for work in the late '70s and have been back in Western New York since the early '80s. I'm a small business owner and have experienced firsthand the hidden costs of mismanagement by our elected officials. If I was not connected here by my business and friends, I would probably move like so many others already have.

I strongly believe that the only hope for Western New York is to embrace the concept of regionalism. Unfortunately, because our politicians are only interested in protecting their little fiefdoms, I'm not hopeful for our future.

I think many of these people do not deserve the title "public servant." A true public servant leads by putting the needs of the constituency first, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number of people - even if that means your position is no longer necessary. Hopefully this report will galvanize people to find out more about how we can generate these necessary changes.

Ken O'Connell

Appleton